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Subject: Feed Leeds update: The Big Dig is FREE this year!!
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Hi again everyone,

In the last Minutes I mentioned that we did not know if there would be a charge for schemes to take part in **The Big Dig on Saturday the 27th of April.**

We have just had this response from Sofia at Veg Cities:

"I can confirm there will be no charges this year. We are covering the costs of developing the website and other resources through Veg Cities. It would be great to have Leeds on the map! I may have some resources such as printed postcards or posters (that gardens can personalise with their contact details). Happy to hear about your opinion on whether this is the most useful resources to get more gardens on board in Leeds or if you can suggest other things.

I will be sending the digital resources early next week and hopefully a link to the Big Dig website where you can start registering your gardens. Happy to have a conversation after that if you need any further information or support."

NB _ watch the website as a much better one will be arriving soon: <https://www.bigdig.org.uk/>

I hope lots from Leeds will take part, as this is now in a form that seems to fit very well with Feed Leeds, on a national scale.

Here again is the blurb from the minutes:

The Big Dig

is an online platform to support food growing in the UK, run by Sustain. The Big Dig Day is taking place on Saturday 27 April 2019 across the UK; we are inviting edible gardens to open their doors to volunteers and the community to mark the start of the growing season, promote their gardens and encourage people to volunteer. The Big Dig Day started in London 8 years ago and over the years more cities and local areas have got involved in the day and the network. This year we would love to get Veg Cities and SFC members involved and a lot more cities and local areas participating.

Why join the Big Dig?

For individual gardens, the **Big Dig network** can help promote your garden, recruit volunteers and measure how much you are growing (and money you're saving). For a local area, the Big Dig can help you facilitate and manage a network of growing spaces, map edible gardens in your area and promote the importance of food growing to policy-makers and the public. All gardens can join The **Big Dig Day** alongside hundreds of gardens and thousands of visitors and volunteers.

What support will be available?

By the 1st of March, a pack of digital materials for local areas and individual gardens to download and print locally, including:

- promotional materials including Big Dig logo, posters and A6 card (that you can personalise with the location of each garden) and social media cards.
- materials to support you on the day such as activities ideas, and template forms (photo permission, template risk assessment, etc.)
- media pack with press release template, general tweets, text template for newsletter, etc.

We are keen to hear from you about what else you think would be useful for your local area.

Web mapping tool and Harvest-ometer

By the 1st of March, a new web tool (which will synchronise with the Veg Cities website by the end of March) with exciting functionalities including:

- An online registration platform so gardens can sign up with a mechanism to show volunteering needs and featured event functionality e.g. The Big Dig Day.
- Participant dashboard including Harvest-ometer to track how much gardens are growing, growing space data and reporting on data such as harvest, monetary value, portions and hopefully carbon savings in the future.

By end of March we will have:

- Local maps that will promote the gardens to volunteers and link to existing area-based websites. i.e. we will link these to local partner organisation's website to show a map of local community gardens that will have all your branding.
- City-wide dashboard to manage a network of gardens.
- A garden volunteer list (potential and current)

Webinar, 12 March, 11h00 – 12h05

The webinar will cover the history of the Big Dig and how you can get involved. It will go over the support available for local areas and gardens including digital materials and the web mapping tool. You will hear from a food growing network in Manchester about their experience of mapping growing spaces in the city and joining the Big Dig.

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